



A PROCLAMATION, For a National-Fast.

WILLIAM and **MARY** by the **Grace of GOD**, King and Queen of *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland*, Defenders of the Faith; To Our **Lyon King at Arms**, and his brethren **Heraulds**, **Macers of Our Privy Council**, **Pursevants**, or **Messengers at Arms**, Our **Sheriffs** in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting: Forasmuch as albeit there hath been for some Years past, many Solemn National Fasts, and at some of these a very particular Enumeration of the Nations Sins, yet few have been duly Humbled for them, or joyned suitable Reformation with their professed Humiliation; and little of the Success of the Preached Gospel doth appear in this Land; But as there is a great decay of Piety, so Impiety abounds, Wickedness grows, Profaness and Debauchery overspreadeth in City and Countrey, and is too much increased in Our Armies, at home and abroad: And albeit in the late Revolution, **GOD** did wonderfully appear for Us, and Our People, in Rescuing them, their Religion and Liberty, when in great danger to be lost; yet that Goodness of **GOD** hath not led to suitable Repentance: And though these Nations have been engaged in a Dangerous and Bloody War for several years past, yet few have turned to the Lord, or sought Him with all their Heart. All which, with the sad Divisions of the Land, as they do Call for deep Humiliation before **GOD**; so We, out of a Pious and Religious Disposition, are Resolved a Day for a General Fast and Humiliation, shall be set a-part and kept, through this whole Kingdom for the same: And for which also, the Commissioners appointed to meet at *Edinburgh*, by the late General-Assembly of this National-Church, have humbly Addressed themselves to the Lords of Our Privy Council; Therefore We, with Advice of the saids Lords of Our Privy Council, Require and Command, a Solemn and Publick Fast, and Day of Humiliation, to be Religiously and Sincerely Observed throughout this Kingdom, both in Churches and Meeting-Houses, for the Causes foresaids, and for pouring out Fervent Prayers to **GOD**, to give Repentance to all Ranks of Persons, so as they may obtain Remission of Sin, and Reconciliation with **GOD**, that He would keep off deserved Wrath, and Bless Us, and Our People, with all Spiritual and Temporal Blessings; and particularly, that **GOD** would Bless the Preaching of the Gospel with Success, advance the Life and Power of Godliness, remove Impiety from among Our People, Heal their Breaches, and Unite them more to **GOD**, and to one another in Him; and that **GOD** would Bless Our Royal Persons, and all in Authority under Us, and Bless the Means of Our Peoples

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Peoples Defence, by Sea and Land, with Success; And now when We are to go to the Field in a dangerous War, that the Lord of Hosts would be pleased to go out with Us, and grant Success to Our Forces, and these of Our Allies against the Common Enemy, and that GOD would mercifully Preserve Our Royal Person, while often exposed to great Dangers, for the Defence of Our People, and the Protestant Religion; And that GOD would be Gracious to the Persecuted and Scattered Protestant-Churches Abroad, chiefly by the French King, and that it may please GOD to Gather them from all places where they have been dispersed, and Build them up again, and give them Peace and Rest in their own Land; and that GOD of His Goodness, would always Bless this Land with Seasonable Weather, and in due time give this Our People the appointed Weeks of the Harvest. And We, with Advice foresaid, Require and Command the said Solemn Fast, and Day of Humiliation, to be Religiously Kept and Observed by all Ranks and Degrees of People within this Kingdom, both in Churches and Meeting-Houses upon *Thursday*, being the last Day of *May* current; Certifying all these who shall Contemn or neglect such a Religious and necessary Duty, they shall be proceeded against, and Punished as Contemners of Our Authority, Neglectors of Religious Services, and as Persons disaffected to the Protestant Religion, and Our Royal Persons and Government. OUR WILL IS HEREFOR E, and We Charge you strictly and Command, that incontinent these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-Cross of *Edinburgh*, and the remanent Mercat-Crosses of the Head-Burghs of the several Shires and Stewartries within this Kingdom, and in Our Name and Authority, make Publication of the Premises, that none may pretend Ignorance. And We Ordain Our Solicitor to dispatch Copies hereof, to the Sheriffs of the several Shires, and Stewarts of the Stewartries, or their Deputs or Clerks, to be by them Published at the Mercat-Crosses of the Head-Burghs, upon receipt thereof, and immediately sent to the several Ministers, both in Kirks and Meeting-Houses, to the effect they may Read and Intimat the same from their Pulpits, upon the *Sunday* before the said last of *May*, and seriously Exhort all persons to a sincere and devote observance thereof, as they regard the Favour and Blessing of the Almighty GOD, the Safety and Preservation of both Church and State, and would avoid the Wrath of GOD upon themselves and their Posterity, and as they will be answerable at their peril. And Ordains these Presents to be Printed, and Published in manner foresaid.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the Second Day of May. And of Our Reign, the Sixth Year. 1694.

Per actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.

GILB. ELIOT, Cls. Sti. Concilii.

GOD Save King William and Queen Mary.

Edinburgh, Printed by the Heirs and Successors of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to Their most Excellent Majesties, *Ann DOM. 1694.*